

I am appalled at the blatant partisanship of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require their stations to air the anti-Kerry documentary "Stolen Honor" just days before the presidential election, and without an equally impressive attempt to balance that message. Without a program to balance the negative bias of the Stolen Honor piece, Sinclair Broadcasting is clearly attempting to influence the outcome of the presidential election, and in doing so defies election laws. This requirement of Sinclair's stations is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation to our democracy and to fair and impartial journalism that a democracy relies upon.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. There is nothing impersonal about protecting our democratic process.

Please register my concerns, and rethink the granting of licensure to Sinclair Broadcasting. Thank you.